

1914.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 15.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 8TH MAY, 1914.

1. The House met, at half-past ten o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2. ADJOURNMENT—MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Webster rose in his place and said that he proposed to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, "The administration of the Electoral Department, especially in connexion with the appointment of permanent Divisional Returning Officers."

Mr. Speaker thereupon called upon those Members who approved of the proposed discussion to rise in their places, and more than the necessary number of Members having risen accordingly—

Mr. Webster moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

It being two hours after the time fixed for the meeting of the House, the debate was interrupted in accordance with Standing Order No. 119, and the Orders of the Day were called on.

3. GOVERNMENT PREFERENCE PROHIBITION BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. W. H. Irvine :—That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to prohibit, in relation to Commonwealth employment, preferences and discriminations on account of membership or non-membership of an association—

Debate resumed.

Mr. Anstey moved an amendment :—That all the words after the word "That" be omitted with a view to the insertion of the following words in place thereof—"as preference to unionists does not exist in any department of the Commonwealth service, the introduction of a Bill dealing with the non-existent and containing no provision to prevent the practice it professes to prohibit, is a prostitution of the functions of Government, serves no public good, and will occupy the time of Parliament to the exclusion of matters of national importance. Therefore, in the opinion of this House, it is expedient and desirable, and is most fully in accord with the proper exercise of the powers of this House, that legislation to deal with the Beef Trust, the Tariff, and with Social Insurance against Sickness and Unemployment should take precedence over the Bill now sought to be introduced, and that His Majesty's Ministers be requested to reconsider their decision in this regard."

Point of Order.—Mr. W. H. Irvine raised a Point of Order that the proposed amendment was not in order.

And other honorable Members having spoken on the question of Order—

Mr. Speaker ruled that the proposed amendment was out of order.

Mr. Webster gave notice in writing of the following objection to the ruling :—That the ruling of the Speaker on the amendment moved by the honorable Member for Bourke, on the motion for leave to bring in the Government Preference Prohibition Bill, be disagreed with.

The debate thereon was forthwith adjourned till the next sitting day.

Mr. McDonald moved, That the debate on the main question be now adjourned.

Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and passed.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for Wednesday next.

8th May, 1914.

4. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Joseph Cook moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at one minute past four o'clock p.m., adjourned until Wednesday next, at half-past two o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—
Mr. James Bennett, Mr. Burchell, Mr. Carr, Mr. Conroy, Mr. Gregory, Mr. Livingston,
Mr. Mahon, Mr. Manifold, Mr. McWilliams, Mr. O'Malley, Mr. Orchard, and Mr. Poynton.

C. GAVAN DUFFY,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.